

Alaska Seafood Industry

Fish Facts

In 2000, Alaskans held over 73% of the 16,181 active commercial fishing permits in the state.

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 2000

Over 4.46 billion pounds of seafood was harvested from Alaskan waters in 2000, comprising approximately 48% the entire U.S. seafood harvest. In the same year, Alaska salmon harvester earnings reached \$272 million, comprising 91% of the value of all salmon harvested in U.S. waters.

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2000

Alaskan halibut fisheries yielded 85 million pounds of halibut in 2000 worth \$138 million. Shellfish harvests amounted to 56.8 million pounds worth \$132.6 million.

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2000/Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2000

Kodiak leads Alaska in the number of permits fished by its residents.

Top ten Alaskan communities by permits fished in 2000

Community	Permits Fished	Fishermen who Fished	Permits/ Fisherman
Kodiak	948	520	1.8
Sitka	889	468	1.9
Petersburg	831	379	2.2
Homer	710	417	1.7
Anchorage	627	523	1.2
Juneau	522	298	1.8
Cordova	425	314	1.4
Ketchikan	384	220	1.7
Wrangell	312	171	1.8
Dillingham	294	239	1.2

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 2000

A testament to the longtime importance of the seafood industry in Alaska, the 1913 fisheries business tax is the oldest tax in the state; in combination with the fisheries resource landing tax, its revenues approached \$19.5 million in 2001. Both taxes enter the general fund and 50% are then appropriated to the municipality in which the fish were caught or routed through DCED to nearby municipalities.

Source: Alaska Department of Revenue, 2001

Of the 15,177 commercial vessels involved in Alaskan fisheries in 2001, 76% belonged to Alaskan fishermen. Within the entire Alaska fleet, drift net vessels numbered 4,149, longline vessels numbered 3,918, and purse seine vessels numbered 2,740.

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 2001

Alaska's commercial fishing industry is the number one private basic sector employer in Alaska, providing more jobs than oil, gas, timber, and tourism.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game, 2000

Seafood comprised 40% of Alaska's international export in 2000, making it the largest international export in the state.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2000

Dutch Harbor/Unalaska and Kodiak were ranked second and third in the nation, respectively, for the value of their fisheries in 2000.

Ten most valuable Alaskan fisheries ports in 2000

Port	Rank in Alaska	Rank in Nation	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Price/ Pound
Dutch Harbor/Unalaska	1	2	699.8	124.9	\$ 0.18
Kodiak	2	3	289.6	94.7	\$ 0.33
Sitka	3	14	95.5	44.6	\$ 0.47
Naknek-King Salmon	4	20	63.1	37.3	\$ 0.59
Seward	5	21	28.6	35.8	\$ 1.25
Homer	6	23	18.1	30.9	\$ 1.71
Ketchikan	7	37	57.3	20.0	\$ 0.35
Petersburg	8	39	32.3	19.4	\$ 0.60
Kenai	9	55	13.5	12.3	\$ 0.91
Juneau	10	56	6.7	11.6	\$ 1.73

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, 2000

Southeast Alaska's seafood industry produced 1,178,790 pounds of sea cucumber and 2,389,139 pounds of sea urchin in 2000.

Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, 2000

Chinook (also known as King) salmon harvested near Cook Inlet are the largest in the state, averaging 24.8 lbs.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

The Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program was designed to involve western Alaska residents in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands fisheries. In 2000, the program provided 1,834 jobs to local residents of 65 communities along Alaska's west coast and paid \$12,509,198 in wages. CDQ assets are worth in excess of \$150 million. Revenues are used for fisheries infrastructure development, vessel purchases, vessel loan programs, training, education, and other important efforts.

Source: Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, 2000

In 2001, sockeye salmon harvests were responsible for 45% of salmon harvester earnings in Alaska; pink and chum harvests made up another 45%, and chinook and coho the remaining 10%.

Source: Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Salmon Market Bulletin Feb. 2002

The Alaskan pollock fishery is the largest fishery in the world, harvesting upwards of two billion pounds of pollock a year.

Source: Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development

The Alaska salmon industry is the only salmon industry in the world and the largest seafood industry in the world to be certified as sustainable by the Marine Stewardship Council.

Source: Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute